

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein said scheduled program characteristics comprise at least one Topic and at least one Theme, and wherein said first mode further comprises use of average weights for a plurality of Topics in said scheduled television programs in calculating the characteristic weight to be given to a scheduled program characteristic of said scheduled television program.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein said first of said at least two modes is a default mode and said second of said at least two modes can be selected at said user interface.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein said future time period is determined by a user selectable start time, stop time, and, optionally, broadcast day or days.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 further including user interface means for saving a selected future time period as a default.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein said scheduled program characteristics comprise at least one category Topic and at least one category Theme in a format Topic\_Theme, and further comprise a second relevancy factor for said Topic\_Theme, and further wherein said characteristic weights in said user profile are calculated as the number of predetermined time periods a second television program having said Topic\_Theme is viewed by a user times said second relevancy factor for said Topic\_Theme.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 further including means to identify one of a plurality of users and means to store a mode selection and/or a future time period selection of said identified user in a user profile.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein one or more scheduled television programs can be selected from said list of suggested television programs displayed at said user interface and added to a list of scheduled television programs planned to be viewed by said user.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said user may select a start time, and/or a stop time.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein a user selected time period can be saved as a default.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein a list of up to a predetermined number of programs meeting any user selected time period and desired characteristic criteria is displayed, in order of characteristic weights.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein upon sorting a list of suggested programs is displayed and a user may select a program from said list, whereupon said user is reminded of any selection from said list at or before the time said selected scheduled program is broadcasted.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said characteristic weights are based on time watched and said at least one characteristics relevancy factor on a scale of 1 to 10 of characteristics of programs watched by a user.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said characteristic weights are stored in counters which are incremented by said at least one characteristics relevancy factor for each time period during which a user views a television program having the characteristic and said at least one characteristics relevancy factor included in said program's broadcast information.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said time period is five minutes and said counters are incremented by said at least one characteristics relevancy factor upon expiration of each said time period.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said first of said at least two modes is a default mode and said second of said at least two modes may be selected at said user interface.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for sorting a television program schedule to assist a user in selecting a television program for viewing or recording based on characteristics of television programs previously watched by said viewer comprising the steps of:

receiving a schedule of television programs to be broadcast comprising scheduled broadcast time and characteristics of said programs;

maintaining a user profile which comprises characteristic weights based on programs previously watched by said user;

allowing said user to select a future time period;

allowing said user to select between a first mode and a second mode for generating a list of suggested television programs;

periodically incrementing said characteristic weights according to a weighting algorithm comprising:

$$W_p = (Rel1 * C_{th1} + Rel2 * C_{th2} + \dots + Reln * C_{thn}) + C2 * (Ct1 + Ct2 + \dots + Ctn)$$

wherein:

$W_p$  is a weight for a program in a program schedule guide;

each of Cth1, Cth2. . . Cthn corresponds to a value in a counter in the user profile for each of at least one characteristic comprising a topic and a theme in a format Topic\_Theme that the program belongs to;

each of Rel1, Rel2... Reln is a corresponding characteristics relevancy factor for each at least one Topic\_Theme in the program, p;

each of Ctl, Ct2... Ctn is an average weight for a plurality of Topics in the program;

$Ctl = (Cth1 + Cth2 + \dots + Cthm)/m$  ;

Cth1 is the counter value for Topic 1\_Theme 1, Cth2 is the counter value for Topic 1\_Theme 2,... Cthm is the counter value for Topic 1\_Theme m;

m is a Theme number in a first Topic;  $Ctn = (Cthn1 + Cthn2 + \dots + Cthnp)/p$ ;

Cthn1 is a counter value for Topic n Theme 1;

Cthn2 is a counter value for Topic n\_Theme 2;

Cthnp is a counter value for Topic n\_Theme p;

p is a Theme number in an nth Topic;

wherein in said first mode, C2 is set to 1; and

wherein in said second mode, C2 is set to 0 and if any Topic-Theme counters corresponding to Topic Themes in a program, p, are 0, then  $Wp=0$ ;

and generating a list of suggested television programs within said selected future time period based on said characteristics of scheduled television programs and said characteristic weights in said user profile,

wherein if said first mode is selected, a program having at least one characteristic which has a zero weight in said user profile can be suggested, and wherein if said second mode is selected, a program having at least one characteristic which has a zero weight in said user profile can not be suggested.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for suggesting scheduled television programs to a user for viewing or recording based on characteristics of television programs previously watched by said viewer comprising:

means for receiving a schedule of television programs to be broadcast comprising scheduled broadcast time and characteristics of said programs;

means for maintaining a user profile which comprises characteristic weights based on programs previously watched by said user;

first user interface means for allowing said user to select a future time period;  
second user interface means for allowing said user to select between a first mode and a second mode for generating a list of suggested television programs;  
first processor means for periodically incrementing said characteristic weights according to a weighting algorithm comprising:

$$W_p = (Rel_1 * C_{th1} + Rel_2 * C_{th2} + \dots + Rel_n * C_{thn}) + C_2 * (C_{t1} + C_{t2} + \dots + C_{tn})$$

wherein:

$W_p$  is a weight for a program in a program schedule guide;  
each of  $C_{th1}$ ,  $C_{th2}$ , . . .  $C_{thn}$  corresponds to a value in a counter in the user profile for each of at least one characteristic comprising a topic and a theme in a format Topic\_Theme that the program belongs to;  
each of  $Rel_1$ ,  $Rel_2$ , . . .  $Rel_n$  is a corresponding characteristics relevancy factor for the each at least one Topic\_Theme in the program,  $p$ ;  
each of  $C_{t1}$ ,  $C_{t2}$ , . . .  $C_{tn}$  is an average weight for a plurality of Topics in the program;  
 $C_{t1} = (C_{th11} + C_{th12} + \dots + C_{th1m})/m$  ;  
 $C_{th11}$  is the counter value for Topic 1 Theme 1,  $C_{th12}$  is the counter value for Topic1\_Theme2, . . .  $C_{th1m}$  is the counter value for Topic1 Theme  $m$ ;  
 $m$  is a Theme number in a first Topic;  $C_{tn} = (C_{thn1} + C_{thn2} + \dots + C_{thnp})/p$ ;  
 $C_{thn1}$  is a counter value for Topic  $n$  Theme 1;  
 $C_{thn2}$  is a counter value for Topic  $n$ \_Theme 2;  
 $C_{thnp}$  is a counter value for Topic  $n$ \_Theme  $p$ ;  
 $p$  is a Theme number in an  $n$ th Topic;  
wherein in said first mode,  $C_2$  is set to 1; and  
wherein in said second mode,  $C_2$  is set to 0 and if any Topic-Theme counters corresponding to Topic Themes in a program,  $p$ , are 0, then  $W_p = 0$ ;

and second processor means for generating a list of suggested television programs within said selected future time period based on said characteristics of scheduled television programs and said characteristic weights in said user profile, wherein if said first mode is selected, a program having at least one characteristic which has a zero weight in said user profile can be suggested, and wherein if said second mode is selected, a program having at least one characteristic which has a zero weight in said user profile can not be suggested.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (New) A system for generating a list of suggested scheduled television programs comprising:

- means for receiving data comprising broadcast time and scheduled program characteristics of a plurality of scheduled television programs;

- means for identifying a first television program being viewed by a user;

- means for receiving data regarding a first program characteristic of the first television program, said first program characteristic being one of said scheduled program characteristics of said plurality of scheduled television programs;

- means for storing a first relevancy factor for said first program characteristic;

- means for storing a user profile for said user, said user profile including characteristic weights given by the user to the scheduled program characteristics of said plurality of scheduled television programs, said characteristic weights further including a weight for said first program characteristic of said first television program;

- first processor means for periodically incrementing a weight for said first program characteristic in the user profile, wherein an incremented weight for said first program characteristic is equal to a number of time periods the first television program is watched by the user times a previous weight given to said first program characteristic times the first relevancy factor for said first program characteristic;

- first user interface means for selecting a future time period and for requesting a list of suggested scheduled television programs scheduled to be broadcast during said future time period;

- second user interface means for selecting between a first mode and a second mode, wherein if said first mode is selected, a first one of said plurality of scheduled television programs having at least one of said scheduled program characteristics whose weight in said user profile is equal to zero is included in said list of suggested scheduled television programs, and if said second mode is selected, a second one of said scheduled television program having at least one of said scheduled program characteristics whose weight in said user profile is equal to zero is not included in said list of suggested scheduled television programs;

and further comprising second processor means for generating said list of suggested scheduled television programs by sorting said television program schedule data according to said scheduled program characteristics of said scheduled television programs, said characteristic weights in said user profile, said mode selection, and said future time period selection.